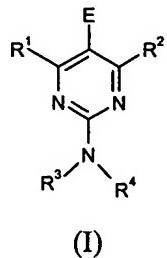


ABSTRACTPROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF PYRIMIDINE COMPOUNDS

A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (I) and intermediates useful therein are provided. The process comprises reacting a compound of formula  $R^1\text{-CO-CH}_2\text{-E}$  with a compound of formula  $R^2\text{-CHX}^1\text{X}^2$  in the presence of a compound of formula  $R^3\text{R}^4\text{N-C(=NH)NH}_2$  and a catalyst, thereby to form a dihydropyrimidine; and oxidising the dihydropyrimidine to form the compound of Formula (I).  $R^1$  is H or an alkyl group;  $R^2$  is H, an alkyl or aryl group;  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are each independently H, alkyl or aryl, or  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are linked to form, together with the nitrogen to which they are attached to form a 5 to 7 membered heterocyclic ring; E is H, an unsubstituted alkyl group, and aryl group or an electron withdrawing group; and  $X^1$  and  $X^2$  are each independently leaving groups, or  $X^1$  and  $X^2$  together represent =O.